

Message Text

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ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-06 ISO-00 CAB-02 CIAE-00 COME-00

DODE-00 DOTE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 RSC-01 FAA-00 PM-03

H-01 L-02 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06

LAB-04 SIL-01 IO-10 NIC-01 /088 W

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R 101143Z JAN 75

FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9709

INFO AMCONSUL MONTREAL

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MONTREAL FOR ICAO REP

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ETRN, TH

SUBJ: CIVAIR: PAN AM STRIKE- STATUS REPORT

REF: BANGKOK 0146

BANGKOK 0168

1. PAN AM SIGNED TWO YEAR AGREEMENT WITH AIRPORT GROUND HANDLERS UNION, JANUARY 9, CALLING FOR AVERAGE WAGE AND ALLOWANCE GAINS OF 1,500 BAHT (\$US75.00) PER MONTH FOR PAA'S 200 AIRPORT WORKERS, 190 OF WHOM JOINED STRIKE JANUARY 4. IN ADDITION PAA AGREED, FOR FIRST TIME, TO PAY ONE MONTH'S SALARY AS YEAR-END BONUS AS WELL AS TO PAY MEDICAL EXPENSES FOR EMPLOYEES AND DEPENDENTS. WAGE AND ALLOWANCE SECTION OF AGREEMENT, INCLUDING NO STRIKE PLEDGE, EXPIRES IN ONE YEAR.

2. RTG OFFICIALS HAVE COMMENTED TO US IN WAKE OF LAST WEEK-END'S EVENTS THAT PAA HAS IN GNERAL FOLLOWED "UNENLIGHTNED" LABOR POLICY HERE, AND THAT FAILURE ONCE AGAIN TO PAY TRADITIONAL YEAR-END BONUS TRIGGERED DECISION TO STRIKE.

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EMBOFFS STRESSED THAT STRIKE ITSELF WAS AN ISSUE BETWEEN

PAN AM AND THE WORKERS IN WHICH THE EMBASSY HAD NO ROLE, AND THAT CONSTANT SERIES OF EMBASSY DEMARCHES TO RTG OFFICIALS BETWEEN EVENING JANUARY 4 AND EVENING JANUARY 6 (REF A AND B) WAS INTENDED TO SECURE RELEASE OF AIRCRAFT, WHICH WAS RTG RESPONSIBILITY.

3. IT IS EVIDENT THAT THE WORKERS HAVE WON A NOTABLE VICTORY IN THIS CASE, SINCE, AS WE UNDERSTAND IT, PAA REFUSED IN DISCUSSIONS DECEMBER 30 - JANUARY 4 TO ACCEDE TO ANY OF THE WORKERS DEMANDS. THUS, IT WILL PRESUMABLY NOT BE LOST ON AIRLINE EMPLOYEES HERE, OR ELSEWHERE, THAT THE IMPOUNDING OF AN AIRCRAFT BY LABOR EXERTS ENORMOUS PRESSURE ON THE AIRLINE. IT IS, HOWEVER, A FORM OF PRESSURE WHICH SHOULD NOT BE TOLERATED.

4. THE FIRST REQUIREMENT FOR DEALING WITH SUCH SITUATIONS IS THAT US AIRLINE REPS KEEP EMBASSY FULLY INFORMED OF ANY STRIKE THREATS. IN THAT WAY WE MIGHT BE ABLE TO HELP HEAD-OFF ANY SEIZURES OF AIRCRAFT BY WORKERS. WE INTEND TO HOLD INFORMAL DISCUSSIONS WITH LOCAL REPS TWA, PAA AND FLT TO WORK OUT CONTINGENCY PROCEDURES SHOULD US FLAG AIRCRAFT BE SEIZED OR THREATENED WITH SEIZURE, AGAIN. IN THIS REGARD WOULD BE EXTREMELY HELPFUL HAVE VIEWS DEPARTMENT INCLUDING LEGAL OPINION ON RIGHTS OF INNOCENT PASSAGE UNDER INTERNATIONAL LAW.
KINTNER

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